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"There ~~has~~ been a number of questions directed to the White House and other Government agencies about our release of the Soviet spy Rudolph Abel and the freeing of Francis Gary Powers and Frederick Pryor from detention in the Soviet Union and East Germany, respectively.

"Let me say first that I am deeply pleased that the pilot Powers and the student Pryor have been released and re-united with their families. I shall be deeply pleased if their release turns out to be a sign of possible significant progress in the lessening of world tensions.

"As for the whereabouts of Powers, I can say at this time only that he is in this Country and that immediate members of his family ~~are~~ with him. He is undergoing important interviews by appropriate officials of this Government.

"Mr. Powers will be made available to the Press at the earliest feasible moment. Because of the complexity of the situation and because the answers to many questions must come out of the interviews now under way, I believe it wise that I not answer further questions on this subject."